

Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health

MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS

www.bcidahofoundation.org

Idaho faces a severe mental health provider shortage, and that shortage is magnified in the rural parts of the state. The Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation scholarship program with Idaho State University addresses both issues. The scholarship program **awards \$1.5 million to Idaho State University** over a five-year period. There are two parts to this commitment, which is the largest ever made by the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health:

- Scholarships are for students from Idaho who are majoring in behavioral health and want to become licensed clinical social workers.
- The second part of the program provides stipends for these students so they can obtain their required clinical hours in rural Idaho. The financial support incentivizes students to gain valuable training in parts of the state that sorely lack providers.

This is the latest scholarship program offered by the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health. It has health care-related scholarship programs at Lewis-Clark State College and the regional medical school Idaho-WWAMI at the University of Idaho. These programs support students with health care majors looking to practice in rural parts of the state.



PROGRAM IMPACT:

It is estimated that 50 scholarships and 50 stipends will be awarded in each of the five years of the current agreement.

The first recipients are scheduled to be named for the start of the fall semester in 2022.



"Idaho ranks 49th in the country for mental health, based on high prevalence of mental illness and low rates of access to care. We are extremely thankful to the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health for their financial support of our students."

— Rex Force, vice president for Health Sciences and senior vice provost, Idaho State University



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